

A City of Bridges

by Debbie Hinman

As Reno is a city where “a river runs through it,” bridges have always been a necessity. The first was Charles Fuller’s makeshift bridge built in 1861, which had to be tied down at each end and was notorious for washing out when river levels increased. Myron Lake soon improved upon that one, and three other bridges would come to occupy that place on the river and in Reno’s history. Though this was the primary thoroughfare through Reno, as the city grew to the south, it became obvious to the city fathers that alternate bridges were needed to more conveniently access the homes and businesses that were cropping up on the other side of the river.

An iron bridge was built in 1872 in the area of Mill Street to carry the Virginia & Truckee locomotives to and from the station to parts south. Locals sometimes used this bridge, but this was dangerous and heavily discouraged. A bridge known as the “Electric Light Bridge” at the west end of Riverside Drive near today’s Booth Street was built in the 1890s, used by bicyclists, walkers and those on horseback. Another iron bridge across from what is today the McKinley Arts & Culture Center carried a utility pipe across the river. Once the McKinley School opened in 1910, children began using the pipe to walk across the river. Railings and a narrow walkway were added to make it safer but it certainly was not designed for anyone but single-file pedestrians. They also faced a steep climb up the hill to access neighborhoods to the south.



Driving south on today’s Arlington Avenue as you pass First Street (upper left), are you aware of the two bridges, or any bridge across the Truckee? The north bridge (bottom left) was once called the Chestnut Bridge and the south bridge (bottom right) was called the Belmont Bridge. The kayak park (top right) is visible from the south side of the Truckee, looking across at the 20th Century Club and The Sands. Photos by Debbie Hinman.

Once automobiles came into use in the city, the demand for another bridge to carry townspeople south became urgent. But where should it be? Suggestions by locals and city council members included Lake Street, which would connect with Sinclair Street on the south side of the river; and Center Street, which would become South Center on the south side of the Truckee. Others felt that it would be more useful to add a bridge farther west of the Virginia Street bridge. The Powning



Addition between Riverside Drive and Second Street was becoming more populous and there were many residents in the Western Addition, around Ralston, Washington, Fifth and Sixth streets. The question of where to build the bridge continued

without a decision. In June of 1916, Councilman Sam Frank authorized the expenditure of \$3500 to improve Riverside Park and construct a sturdier bridge across the river to Belle Isle. Rights of way would need to be obtained from property owners but the Council liked the plan—especially Mayor Harry Stewart.

Riverside Park was today’s Wingfield Park. In 1907, a Reno attorney, L. E. C. (Lewis) Hinckley, had purchased an island in the Truckee River in downtown Reno which he named Belle Isle. He had grandiose plans for this piece of land which he set in

motion in 1911. Soon thereafter, Reno residents were treated to a delightful, lushly landscaped amusement park, with a

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theater, dance hall, merry-go-round and carnival games. In 1912, a roller-skating rink was added, inside a large, heated pavilion with a maple floor. Visitors could reach the island with a narrow footbridge extending from the north side of the river to the east end of Belle Isle.

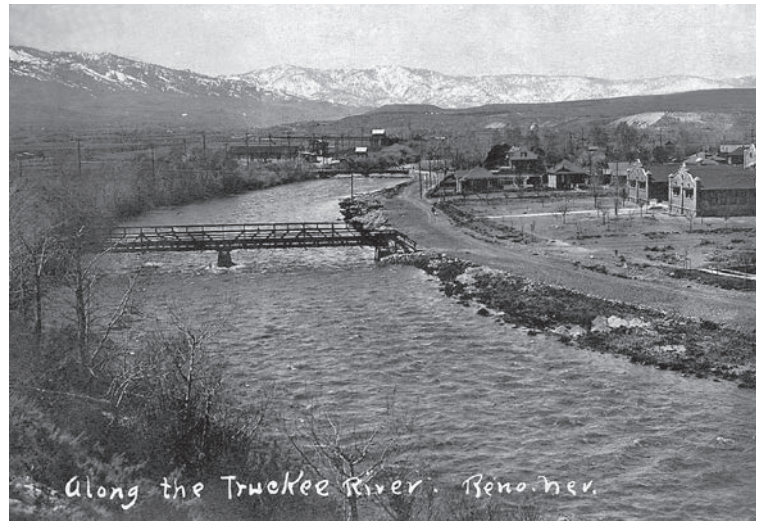
By 1917, the island had been taken over by the Reno Business Men's Association who claimed, in their appeal to residents, "There has been nothing that could be called large and substantial and permanent in the undertakings." Their plans to enhance the island were grandiose in the extreme: they included the erection of a large swimming tank to be topped with a 175-foot tower, reached by means of an elevator, a bowling alley, billiard rooms and a permanent Ferris wheel. Unfortunately, the association did not sell the stock needed to raise the \$100,000 for the construction costs and this plan never came to fruition.

In 1919, Mayor Stewart introduced an improvement plan to the City Council and the issue of a bridge connecting First Street with Belle Isle was once again under discussion. Not only would it facilitate travel to the south side of town for townspeople, it would afford better fire protection. The following year, George Wingfield, who would become known as the "owner and operator of Nevada," acquired Belle Isle and donated it to the City of Reno, requesting that the park be named in honor of his mother, Martha Wingfield. The bridge discussion resumed in earnest and continued through the next several months.

The Council was split 3 to 3 over the matter of the exact location of the bridge. One faction wanted it to cross at West Street. They argued that the river was narrower at this point and so construction would not be as costly. However, this crossing would be next to Robert Fulton's large home and



Looking west, the Belle Isle photo shows not only the development of Belle Isle, but the footbridge and the development on the south side of the river, c. 1907. Courtesy Jerry Fenwick.



Looking west, this 1915 photo includes a new McKinley Park School, the utility pipe bridge in the foreground, and the "Electric Light Bridge" in the distance at Riverside Drive and Booth Street. Courtesy Jerry Fenwick.

land. Fulton said he would not sell though might consider a right-of-way; he also said he wished the bridge would be located further upstream. A week later he reconsidered, and offered the city an option to buy the land adjoining West Street for \$4100. City Council member Roy Frisch (who would become famous in 1934 for his disappearance and probable murder) called the bridge placement issue "problematical." A crossing at Chestnut Street would seem to be the best choice but Peavine Creek would need to be covered. The total cost might be as much as \$15,000 more at that site.

A word about street name changes, for those of you who don't recognize Chestnut Street. In Reno's earlier days, Chestnut Street ran from the northwest sector of the city, in good company with its nearby "tree streets," such as Maple, Elm and Oak Streets, southward to the river. The later addition of Interstate 80 through the city and the expansion of St. Mary's Hospital greatly impacted this neighborhood. Across the river from Chestnut Street was Belmont Road, extending south to California Avenue. From California southward, the street was Arlington Road, as it was the route to the very early Arlington Nursery. These streets retained their names until the mid-1950s. Then Chestnut and Belmont were absorbed by Arlington (North and South). When the Sierra Street Bridge was built, the short stretch south of the river to California Avenue, formerly Granite Street, became South Sierra.

Residents of the western sector of the city were asked for their input. Most felt a bridge at West Street would be too near the Virginia Street Bridge to relieve downtown traffic congestion and in the words of one respondent, "would affect a landing at its (the river's) most unattractive point and would violate almost every principle of landscape architecture." Most felt a crossing at Chestnut Street would take advantage of one of the most beautiful points on the river, would cross the island practically at the center and would cost little if any more. Another comment was, "The factor of cost between the two proposed locations is nominal when one considers

that such a bridge will last for 50 or 60 years and must serve as a utility for that long period.” Although there have been improvements to the bridges in the intervening years, wouldn’t these respondents be amazed to hear the bridges’ replacement is under consideration some 102 years later?

On March 9, 1920, the City Council, in caucus, remained divided at 3-3 on the issue of the bridge location. The mayor broke the tie for Chestnut Street. It was announced that the bridge would be approximately 125 feet in length, about 40 feet in width, including a driveway and sidewalks for pedestrians. By the end of May, the city was receiving bids for two girder-type reinforced concrete bridges across the Truckee River at Chestnut Street. The span from the island to Belmont Road would soon follow.

A “triple dedication ceremony” was held on April 17, 1921 to celebrate not only the Wingfield Park Bridge but the bridge at the end of Riverside Avenue commonly referred to as the “Electric Light Bridge” and the new hangar at the Blanchfield airfield. In spite of poor weather, a huge crowd came out for the dedication of these three important steps for Reno’s future.

In 1925, First Street was widened from the intersection with Sierra Street to the Wingfield Park Bridge. The arguments continued over which bridge should come next: Lake, Center or Sierra. The Center Street bridge quickly followed the park bridges, being completed the end of 1926.

Reno residents held their collective breath in March of 1928 when flood waters covered Wingfield Park, flowing over the protective walls. The tennis courts were covered with three feet of water and shrubs and grass on the island were destroyed. The north bridge was covered with water. George Wingfield, who gave the park to the city stated he would do all necessary to restore it when the water receded. Said Wingfield, “Whatever the mayor and the council need to restore the park, they can have it from me. We’ll build it better than ever.” But the bridges held their place.

Construction of the Sierra Street and Lake Street bridges began in the spring of 1937. Reno was really coming into its own now, with four additional bridges to alleviate city traffic. This would be just in time for a particularly threatening flood in December of that year. The Wingfield Park bridges didn’t fare as well during this serious flood. Possibly because the foundations of the span were weakened by the 1928 high water, the south bridge collapsed, one corner settling below the flood level. As a caution, traffic on the bridges had been barred that day so no

vehicles or people were lost in the collapse. It would be another year before the south bridge could be rebuilt, and at the same time, the north bridge was widened.

In the mid-1950s, when the names Chestnut Street and Belmont Road were relegated to the past, that stretch across Wingfield Park became known as the Arlington bridge. Even some longtime residents don’t realize it is actually two bridges, or that Wingfield Park is an island, once an amusement park known as Belle Isle. But the park is just as full of people in

today’s world, often enjoying music and dance productions on the stage, shopping at art and craft fairs, or just enjoying evening picnics under the trees, accompanied by river sounds nearby. Old is joined by new: the kayak course is new but the tennis courts have been a feature of the park for over 100 years.

Currently, plans are underway to replace the Arlington bridges. Although some rehabilitation was performed in 1967 when a lane was added to facilitate left turns onto First Street, for the most part they stand as they were, following the 1938 rebuilding of the south bridge. Construction on the new bridges is slated to begin second quarter of 2024. Input from the public has been solicited from the beginning and as it

currently stands, the double-pier north bridge will be replaced with a single-pier bridge. The south bridge will be a clear-span bridge, as it is today. Stakeholders and the public have endorsed a modern, art-deco theme for aesthetics.

Reno continues to grow and change, but thankfully some things remain the same. The following passage from Walter Van Tilburg Clark’s *The City of Trembling Leaves* (1945) aptly illustrates this: “He [Tim Hazard] crossed the bridge and the island and stopped on the second bridge, where he leaned on the concrete rail and watched the low water working flatly among the stones. Finally, he went on into the park to wait out the gods of the plateau.” 



Construction of Arlington Bridge North, 1920. The Nevada Club is on the site of today’s 20th Century Club, and the spires of St. Thomas Aquinas are in the distance. Courtesy Neal Cobb.

Information for this article came from *Tough Little Town on the Truckee*, John M. Townley; Reno newspaper articles 1900-1957; conversations with Neal Cobb and Jerry Fenwick.

Debbie Hinman is a HRPS Walking Tour Guide, HRPS Board Vice-President, Chair of the City of Reno Historical Resources Commission, and Editor of HRPS’s *FootPrints* publication.

Rosewood Nature Study Area:

A Place To Learn About Wetland Habitat And Reno's History!

by Jill Richardson

Wander around the Truckee Meadows and you will see many neighborhood parks, many with names of the early settlers who long ago ranched this area. Damonte, Caughlin, Newlands, Callahan, Mayberry, Huffaker and many more of the parks are reminders of those pioneers. But even the newest parks have a rich history, and the Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation is undertaking a project to research the past of its 200+ parks for the education of Reno and Sparks, and for future generations.

One of the newest parks is the Rosewood Nature Study Area. This 220-acre ecosystem opened to the public in 2021. Along with Oxbow and Swan Lake Nature Study Areas, Rosewood provides the community with a Great Basin wetland habitat to learn about waterfowl and other creatures. The mixture of paved and natural trails provides recreation and beauty. While locals may remember this area as a decommissioned golf course, the unique habitat has undergone many changes over the 150+ years since settlers arrived in the vicinity.



Rosewood Lakes Golf Course opened in July 1991 and ceased operation in 2015 to become Rosewood Nature Study Area.

Recent History

Most recently, this was the site of Rosewood Lakes Golf Course, closed in June 2015 when Veterans Parkway was built across the golf course. Rosewood Lakes GC was owned by the City of Reno, and it was decided not to rebuild the golf course but to use the land for the nature study area.

Prior to being a golf course, the area was part of the Jones Ranch. Robert Jones and his wife Jane were early pioneers of Nevada. They travelled across the plains in 1858 and settled in Gold Hill. After twenty years on the Comstock, they moved to Truckee Meadows in what was known as the Glendale district.

Over the years, housing developers purchased the portions of the ranch land and proposed plans to build apartments, condominiums and other housing, plus a golf course. There was concern by the community about the pollution in Steamboat Creek and the Boynton Slough, both of which are tributaries to the Truckee River. The nearby community of Hidden Valley had concerns about the type of housing that would be built on the old ranch.

After many years of negotiations, the Rosewood Lakes neighborhood and golf course were completed in 1991. The golf course was billed as the "People's Course" as it had been built to replace Reno's other public golf club, Brookside Golf Course, which was sold to make way for expansion of the airport.

Not long after the Rosewood Lakes Golf Course opened it became obvious that a southeast connector highway was needed to link the Geiger Grade area to Sparks. At that time, the Reno City Council and the Regional Transportation Commission reviewed a number of proposals for routes to connect these areas. They considered running the new highway directly through Hidden Valley Park, or cut into the bluffs above the park, or through Rosewood Golf Course, or several other options. They considered how each of the options impacted existing homes, the grazing area of wild horses from the Virginia Range, the potential for destroying historically significant traces

of the wagon trail used by pioneers coming west (including the Donner Party), the excavation work required, the impact to the floodplain, and of course, the Rosewood Lakes Golf Course. In the end, the route chosen was the one through the golf course, which closed in 2015. The Veterans Parkway opened in July 2018.

In 2019, Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation staff moved into the old clubhouse and converted the remains of the old golf course into a nature study area, which opened in 2021. The project was partially funded by the Truckee River Fund at the Community Foundation of Western Nevada, and is supported by the National Audubon Society-George Whittell Nevada Environmental Fund.

Jones Ranch

The Rosewood Nature Study Area is located on what was once Jones Ranch. The Jones family was amongst the first pioneer settlers and came to Nevada while it was still the Utah Territory. Robert Jones and his wife Jane were both natives of England. Robert came to Nevada with the first immigrant outfit after the Mountain Meadow massacre. (The Mountain Meadows Massacre was a series of attacks which resulted in the mass murder of 120 members of an emigrant wagon train.

The massacre occurred September 7–11, 1857 in southern Utah, and was perpetrated by Mormon settlers together with some Southern Paiute Native Americans.) So Robert had to have been brave to emigrate right after the massacre.

Jane's obituary commented that at the age of 28, she was "one of the sturdy women who crossed the plains in the early days." They married and settled in Gold Hill in 1858. The Comstock Lode was discovered soon after and many people flocked to Virginia City and surrounding areas. The couple established a dairy with a milk route. Their obituaries (Robert in 1903 and Jane in 1915) state that they became quite wealthy but their fortune seemed to ebb and flow—sometimes they were rich and sometimes impoverished.

The couple moved the family down to the ranch in the area once called the Glendale district south of Sparks and the Truckee River to Huffaker Hills (Rattlesnake Mountain). They are listed as one of the early settlers of Sparks, raising cattle on their ranch. That same year the family experienced a great tragedy—their two sons were driving cattle from their old home to Glendale and froze to death. When they were found, the older boy was on top of his younger brother, as if to try to keep him warm. The boys are buried in the Gold Hill Cemetery.

The couple had two other sons and a daughter. Their son Robert Franklin Jones was the first white child to be born on the Comstock—March 26,



Charles C. Jones (standing) and James Gault in the buggy at the Jones Ranch c. 1900.
Photo courtesy Nevada Historical Society.

1860. R. F. Jones got a job with Southern Pacific Company and eventually moved to Santa Barbara and died there in 1937. His brother Charles C. Jones stayed at the ranch until he died in 1940; his descendants were still living on the ranch as of 1973. Their sister, Mrs. E. J. Williams, stayed in the Reno area.

In the early 1900s, a portion of the Jones ranch was leased to a group of Reno sportsmen to use as a hunting preserve. In later years, they posted notices in the paper that hunting was not permitted on the Jones ranch property.

One year the Reno Gun Club had a competition to see if one of their members could sow 200 pounds of wild rice. "It was stated that this was the first wild rice ever shipped into the state. The funny looking seeds, nearly three-quarters of an inch long and no bigger round than a darning needle, attracted lots of attention. The seed when sown sinks to the bottom of the pond no matter where sown and takes root. It will grow through 20 feet of water and stick its head up patiently waiting arrival of the season's ducks. Ducks spot it from a long distance off and eat it when they will refuse other food."

Due to the proximity to the Steamboat Creek and Truckee River, the Jones Ranch was one of several in that vicinity to be flooded from time to time. The family is listed as having a large ranch house on Glendale Road. In 1892, it was reported that a fire totally destroyed the house, valued at between \$5,000 and \$6,000 (\$150,000 in today's dollars) which was only partially covered by insurance.



Gold Hill, Nevada c. 1875–1880, showing homes, mills, train tracks and a church. The Jones family settled here in 1858, before moving to the Truckee Meadows and establishing Jones Ranch twenty years later.
Photo courtesy Nevada Historical Society.

Apartments and Condominiums

In the early 1970s, portions of the once large Jones Ranch were eyed for potential residential development. The Donner Springs development was built on a portion of the former ranch at the foot of Rattlesnake Mountain by Lewis Homes in the '70s. Other developers looked to build condos in the area bordered by Pembroke Drive (renamed from Miller Road in 1957 to honor an old country club in Wales, England), Bella Vista Ranch Road, McCarran Blvd and Hidden Valley, also called the Steamboat marsh area. These were rejected.

Developer Michael Dermody announced in 1985 that he planned to seek approval to build 1,400 condominiums, apartments, and townhouses on a 100-acre parcel in Jones Ranch. In return, Dermody would build an 18-hole municipal golf course on an adjoining 250 acres. The Airport Authority had recently taken over Reno's municipal Brookside Golf Course as part of an airport expansion project, so a replacement course was appealing. In 1986, an agreement was reached in which the city received the land and water rights from Dermody for building the golf course, valued at \$1.5 million, but it would take another two years before the city got started on the project.

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Rosewood Lakes Golf Course

Reno City Council approved spending \$4.7 million on the new golf course in 1988. The city used money from the sale of the old Brookside Golf Course to the Airport Authority, plus additional funding.

There were still concerns over the impact to Steamboat Creek, the wetlands, and the Truckee River. The Army Corps of Engineers was involved since the project could not impact the water quality in the Truckee River. There were concerns over fertilizer getting into Steamboat Creek, and at the time, the Truckee River was not meeting the state's standards for minimizing nitrogen and phosphorus levels. Backfilling the swamp was not permitted, so plans had to be modified to include settling ponds, nutrient strippers, new vegetation, and a design which would not cause fertilizer to run off into the creek. Some argued that the golf course might actually help the creek's level of pollution rather than harm it. But these sentiments did not override the Army Corps' concern, nor change the recent lawsuits by the Pyramid Lake Paiute Indian Tribe over the declining quality of water in the Truckee River and its impact to their trout and cui-ui fish.

The story goes that developer, Dermody Properties, was planning to build 900 homes on 200 acres. Dermody partnered with Taylor Woodrow out of Great Britain. When the 84-year old chairman of the board, Lord Frank Taylor visited to the site, he was inspired by plans for tree-lined streets of homes with views of Mt. Rose and suggested the name Rosewood. The City Council agreed and officially named the course Rosewood Lakes Municipal Golf Course.

The new 18-hole golf course opened on July 15, 1991, at a cost of \$6 million. It was the first public golf course to open since Northgate Golf Course three years earlier. The course was 6,693 yards from the gold tees and 6,104

from the blues. Golfers said the course provided a challenge with its narrow fairways. The cost for a round of golf in 1991 was \$17 for residents and \$22 for non-residents, with an optional golf cart at \$16. The newspapers touted it as "loaded to the gills."



Rosewood Nature Study Area

Rosewood Lakes Golf Course closed in June of 2015 as the construction of the southeast connector (Veterans Parkway) took place.

At the time, there were golf courses at Washoe Golf Club, Montreaux (opened 1997), Wolf Run (1998), Red Hawk (1997 and 2001), ArrowCreek (1999), D'Andrea (opened 2000, closed 2013?), Sommerset (2004), Kiley Ranch (2007), Crystal Peak (opened 2007, closed 2010). While golfers mourned the loss of Rosewood Lakes, national surveys indicated that golf participation had gone down by close to 20% since 2003, due to the recession and scarcity of water. As a result, many cities and counties were getting out of the golf course business.

The grand opening for the nature study area took place on June 12, 2021. Through partnership and an advisory board, TMPF is restoring the area to a functional wetland system while providing educational and recreational opportunities for the community.

Boynton Slough

In the midst of the nature study area is the Boynton Slough. John W. Boynton was a Nevada early pioneer and had a ranch in the area in the 1880s, and his son John Wesley Boynton was born on the ranch in 1903. The ranch was used for grazing cattle such as Holstein Heifers. Local fishermen caught catfish in the slough.

Perhaps the most remarkable hay crop to be found in this State, if not on the Coast, was on the John Boynton's ranch on Truckee Meadows. The grass is indigenous to the soil and is called red-top, for the reason that in the field it somewhat resembles that species of grass, but it is not red-top. It more closely resembles the mountain bunchgrass than anything else. It grows spontaneously on bottom lands, which, a few years ago were so impregnated with alkali as to be practically worthless. The alkali has been leached out by irrigation, and nature, unassisted, has produced the grass here mentioned. It affords but one crop in the year, and yields about three tons to the acre. Mr. Boynton could harvest nearly 400 tons of this hay on land that ten years prior he considered to be absolutely worthless.

The ranch was listed for sale in 1907 due to "advanced age of owner." At that time the ranch had 700 acres and cut 1500 tons of hay a day. The elder John died in 1915 and his son died in 1962.

Information for this article came from newspaper articles (1884-2004) from *Reno Gazette-Journal*, *Nevada State Journal*, *Reno Evening Gazette*, *Daily Nevada State Journal*, and 2020 *Proposed Truckee Meadows Nature Study area*.

Jill Richardson is a member of HRPS, Nevada Historical Society, and a volunteer history researcher and Board member for Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation.

The Howell House: Its History and Future

by Debbie Hinman

The lovely Colonial Revival house at Hill Street and California Avenue, built in 1915-16, was home to five generations of the Howell family and later, as often happened with large close-in properties, adaptively reused as office space for professionals. The beautiful property has a symmetrically-balanced façade and accentuated front entry. There is a pedimented entry porch with a classically-inspired front door with sidelights and a fanlight.

Nevada architect Fred Schadler designed the home for the Howells. Schadler had already proven his architectural skill with the elegant Elks Home at First and Sierra Streets (1904) and the Mission Revival Frank Humphrey House at Ralston and W. Fifth Streets (1906). He would later design the Steinmiller Parsons House (1921) at 761 California Avenue and the Twentieth Century Club at 335 W. First Street (1925).

Prior to coming to Reno, the Howell family had been living in Tonopah where Eugene William Howell was active in mining and banking. They decided to make the move to Reno sometime before 1914 and Mrs. Maud Howell, her mother Rosa Haines, and children, Eugene, Jack and James as well as their Chinese cook of many years, Charlie Hay, moved to a home on South Center Street while their new home was under construction. Eugene William was to follow as soon as he had wrapped up his business affairs. However, Eugene would never see his new home. A telegram from Tonopah notified the family of his sudden death. Mrs. Howell, pregnant with her fourth child, soon gave birth to a daughter, Betty. The remainder of the family moved into the grand Hill Street home as planned. As the children grew and married, a new generation of Howells populated the home. Five generations of the Howell family lived in the home at various times; the last being Margaret “Neal” Sullivan Howell who occupied it until it was sold in 1977.

That year, Reno native and local attorney David P. Sinai purchased the property and along with John Ohlson, Jr., Theodore J. Schroeder and Michael R. Specchio, formed a professional corporation and relocated their offices to 448 Hill Street. The elegant feel of the home was retained with classic, tasteful furnishings and design elements. In 2001, ownership of the building passed to the California Avenue Group, LLC. Professional tenants continued to occupy the building until it was sold in 2018 to Latimer Properties LLC, and then transferred to the parent company, Nevada Museum of Art in 2019.

Local CPA Elaine Alexander recently reflected on her time at Howell House: “Although it was a place to work, it never felt like anything other than a house. A house your rich, charming grandma would let you run through in the summer. It was warm and welcoming, not at all intimidating. With its many windows and wide front door, the house never felt large, it always felt just right, it was always just right. I loved the mornings there — I would make a cup of tea and sit on the front steps with the door open and dream I lived there.”

The current Nevada Museum of Art, designed by architect Will Bruder, opened in 2003 and occupies a site adjacent to the Howell House. Two old homes were demolished to provide room for the structure and now with plans for expansion in 2023, the museum would like to clear the land occupied by the Howell House. A Reno couple who have been active in purchasing and restoring numerous historic properties, mainly throughout the Old Southwest sector of the city, Tim and Nancy Gilbert, are interested in moving the house to a lot owned by the City of Reno on the Truckee River,



The elegant 104-year-old house at 448 Hill Street awaits its fate. Photo by Debbie Hinman.

at the very end of Riverside Drive just past the Booth Street bridge. They would like to lease the land from the city. This is currently under review by the City of Reno.

Plans for the house at its proposed locale would turn that desolate stretch of land to a development the city could be proud of. Not only would a valuable piece of local history be saved, but the plans the Gilberts have would create a wonderful complex with a bar, restaurant, both open-air and glassed-in sitting areas from which to enjoy the river, a gazebo and a walking path along the river. There is currently a partially-burned brick bungalow on the property that the Gilberts would like to save and remodel into a separate coffeehouse. Says Nancy, “Reno does not need another concrete high rise along the river, especially with all that are already planned. People need open space and we want to provide it, and protect Reno’s history.”

Information for this story came from a home history written by Nan Howell Spina, local newspaper articles, architectural assistance from ZoAnn Campana, interviews with Nancy Gilbert and Elaine Alexander and Washoe County Assessor records.



Historic Reno Preservation Society June 2022 Historic Walking Tours

Tour cost is \$10 per person, free to HRPS members. Walks generally last from 1 ½ to 2 hours.

No dogs please. Reservations required and space will be limited.

Please go to www.historicreno.org or call 775-747-4478 for reservations and information.

Access to HRPS Walking Tours varies according to venue. Certain areas may not be fully accessible to individuals with disabilities due to architectural barriers inherent in the historic construction of the structures, or uneven walking surfaces.

Saturday
June 4,
9:00 a.m.

BRICKS & STONES — Take a walk through the Humboldt and Lander Streets Neighborhood. Discover the architectural treasures of this area: a mix of bungalows, Tudor, mission revivals, and cottage styles. Meet at the Lander Street side of My Favorite Muffin, 340 California Avenue. **Tour guide: Susan Mullen.**

Tuesday
June 7,
6:00 p.m.

UPPER RALSTON— Enjoy a walk in a residential neighborhood with a mix of architectural styles. Proximity to the University has traditionally determined the mix of residents, professors and students alike. Meet at the intersection of Washington Street, The Strand and College Avenue. **Tour guide: Jim Smith.**

Saturday
June 11,
9:00 a.m.

MIDTOWN BUSINESS DISTRICT — Take a walk through the emerging Midtown District and see how this area has changed over the past 100 years from a quiet country road lined with large homes to a bustling business district. The Midtown area has continually reinvented itself to adapt to the changing needs of our city. Learn about the exciting businesses and people that once occupied the familiar buildings you see today. Meet at the southwest corner of St. Lawrence Avenue and Virginia Street. **Tour guide: Barrie Lynn.**

Tuesday
June 14,
6:00 p.m.

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STREET — Perhaps you've done the Mansions on the Bluff and DeLongchamps walk but how about the houses on the other side of Court, Ridge, California and Arlington? Distinctive architecturally-styled homes line these quiet streets where many of Reno's families lived, some for over 50 years. Today the neighborhood is a blend of family homes along with businesses. Meet at the southwest corner of Arlington and Court. **Tour guide: Anne Simone.**

Saturday
June 18,
9:00 a.m.

WEST OF WELLS — Discover an often-overlooked treasure trove of fascinating Reno history. Join us as we walk the neighborhood West of Wells Avenue, along the former path of the V&T railroad. Experience unusual architecture unique to this neighborhood and learn the history of the colorful characters who gave birth to Reno's neighborhood on the other side of the tracks. Meet outside Huntsman's at 124 Wonder Street. **Tour guide: Barrie Lynn.**

Tuesday
June 21,
6:00 p.m.

WELLS AVENUE NEIGHBORHOOD — Take a stroll through a working-class neighborhood along the path of the Wells Avenue streetcar, across the V&T tracks, and past the homes of the "Thoma Street Gang." Meet at the Sinclair Street side at the historic Southside School Annex, 190 East Liberty Street. **Tour guide: Mark Taxer.**

Saturday,
June 25,
9:00 a.m.

CIRCLE DRIVE / SOUTHRIDGE — Learn about Southridge Estates, one of Reno's most outstanding residential areas in the early 1950s, featuring large yards, big trees, and the beautiful homes of many prominent Renoites. Meet at 1615 Circle Drive. **Tour guide: Caroline Asikainen.**

Tuesday
June 28,
6:00 p.m.

COUNTRY CLUB ACRES – Take a stroll through an area of southwest Reno steeped in history from the 1920s and 30s. Hear about the original Reno Golf Club, Reno's first airfield and the luxurious, ill-fated Country Club. With the growing popularity of the Washoe Golf Course and the newly created Virginia Lake, the early 1940s saw the rise of a new neighborhood created for suburban living. The sale of lots rather than homes ensured an eclectic mix of architectural styles and homes of all sizes. Meet the corner of Bonnie Briar and Lakeside. **Tour guide: Debbie Hinman.**



HRPS and Artown July 2022 Historic Walking Tours



Saturday
July 2
9:00 a.m.

MOVIE FOOTPRINTS IN RENO – Walk in the footsteps of Marilyn Monroe, Kirk Douglas, Kevin Costner, Clint Eastwood, Maggie Smith, Helen Mirren and more. The tour covers downtown Reno's rich film history inspired by divorce, gambling and the city's distinct look in such movies as "The Misfits," "Cobb," "Sister Act," and "Love Ranch." Meet by the northeast entrance to the lobby of the National Automobile Museum, 10 South Lake Street. **Tour guide: Robin Holabird.**

Tuesday
July 5
6:00 p.m.

CEMETERY TOUR – Join HRPS for an early evening visit to three of Reno's most historic cemeteries: Pythians, Hillside, and the Hebrew Cemetery and "become acquainted" with some of their most notable residents. Meet at the Knights of Pythias Hall, 980 Nevada Street. Please wear closed shoes suitable for rocky and uneven ground. **Tour guides: Bill Mardon, Steve Matles and Brett Banks.**

Saturday
July 9
9:00 a.m.

NEULANDS NEIGHBORHOOD – Enjoy an architectural walk through one of Reno's oldest and most prestigious neighborhoods. Newlands Heights Historic District was entered in the National Register of Historic Places in 2017. Meet at the Lander Street side of My Favorite Muffin, 340 California Avenue. **Tour guides: Sharon Honig-Bear, Derek Partridge, Matt Magaletti.**

Tuesday
July 12
6:00 p.m.

MONROE STREET – Stroll along Monroe Street, originally one of the emigrant trails across the Truckee Meadows where later, notable Reno residents built their impressive homes. Savor the architecture and history of the south end of the Newlands neighborhood that features an eclectic mix of unique dwellings dating from the 1930s. Meet at the corner of Monroe and Manor Drives. **Tour guide: Debbie Hinman.**

Saturday
July 16
9:00 a.m.

DOWNTOWN SPARKS – Learn about the history of the rail city with a guided walking tour of Victorian Square and Downtown Sparks. This tour is designed to show how this area has transformed itself from a railroad hub to a vibrant commercial district, to a rundown urban area and finally to a successful redevelopment area that has changed the image and future of the city. The tour includes 17 buildings and sites that have played an important role in the history and development of Sparks and Nevada. Tour begins and ends at the Sparks Heritage Museum located at 814 Victorian Avenue, Sparks. **Tour guide: Scott Carey. This tour is in collaboration with the Museum (www.sparksmuseum.org) but reservations need to be made through HRPS.**

Tuesday
July 19
6:00 p.m.

PARSONS/MILLS ARCHITECTURE – Stroll one of Reno's most unique neighborhoods to view some designs of Reno architects Edward Parsons and Russell Mills, who sometimes collaborated on designs. Hear about the families who first lived in these homes. Meet at the corner of Marsh Avenue and LaRue. **Tour guide: Anne Simone.**

Saturday
July 23
9:00 a.m.

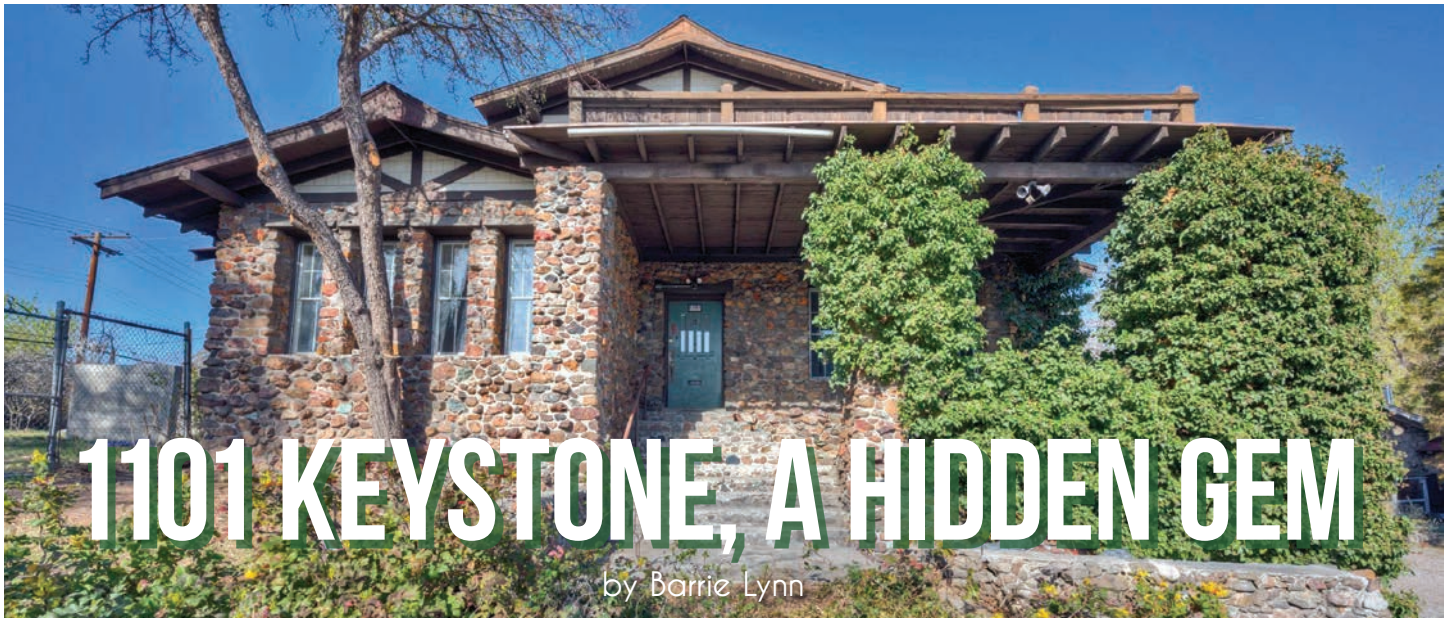
TRUCKEE RIVER ALL THE TIME – See Reno's relationship with the Truckee over time, learn of the great floods and of Reno's architectural heritage, hear the Voice of the City, observe how the HRPS Walks in July relate to the Truckee and the history of Reno. Meet at the Wild River Grille at the Riverside Artists Lofts. **Tour guide: Jim Smith, Brad Carlson.**

Tuesday
July 26
6:00 p.m.

EL RENO APARTMENT HOMES – Visit the original site of these charming and unique homes designed by renowned architect Paul Revere Williams and view seven at their new locations. See other Sierra Vista Addition architecture, including the August Hill brick houses and the home of eccentric namesake LaVere Redfield. Visit a "hidden" enclave of historic homes collected by early county gardener, Jack Reeve. Meet at the northwest corner of the Statewide Lighting parking lot, 1311 S. Virginia. **Tour guide: Debbie Hinman.**

Saturday
July 30
9:00 a.m.

EAST FOURTH STREET – From a county road and railroad hub to the Lincoln Highway, U.S. 40, and beyond, Reno's East Fourth Street has always been a dynamic crossroads for industry, tourism, and commerce. Explore the historic roots of this corridor, where century-old brick hotels, warehouses, railway and manufacturing buildings have been preserved and revitalized to create one of Reno's most energetic districts. Meet around corner from Louis' Basque, 301 E. 4th St. **Tour guide: Alicia Barber.**



1101 KEYSTONE, A HIDDEN GEM

by Barrie Lynn

Near the intersection of Keystone Avenue and Kings Row, you may have caught a glimpse of an unusual and large stone house. Hidden behind trees and set far back on a large lot, it is surrounded by suburban tract homes and the whizzing traffic of Keystone Avenue. It is oddly easy to miss. The $\frac{3}{4}$ acre lot on which the house is situated contains two other residential structures; a small stone cottage and a two-story duplex with a stone veneer.

The main house dates from approximately 1914 and is unlike anything else in Reno. As you examine the exterior walls, nearly every color of the rainbow is represented. Contained within the walls of this home is a fairly-detailed survey of the local geology representing roughly 60 million years. It was built entirely of colorful native stone and ores, including brilliant green mineralized copper or malachite, blue azurite, rich, electric reds and oranges from iron ores and some shiny black stones with white striations. The recognizable stripes of Nevada Wonder Stone are visible along with amethyst and a score of other colorful stones and ores. It is apparent that great care was taken to carefully curate the placement of the stones to highlight some of the most impressive specimens at eye level.

The stone masons of the Stewart Indian School in Carson City would, some 20

years later, construct over 60 structures using similar native stones and ores, but there is no evidence that they were involved in the construction of this home in 1914.

In contrast to the fortress-like exterior, the interior of 1101 Keystone is filled with natural light. At the top of the stone-fronted steps is the gateway to



This two-story home is one of the earliest examples of vernacular Craftsman architecture in Reno.

the impressive interior. The original front door is an enormous Craftsman masterpiece with a mortise lock, dentil shelf and four beveled glass windows. A custom brass door handle is said to have been made by a former occupant and owner of the home.

The details in the main living area are unusual compared to what would have typically been found in a residential

home in Reno in 1914. The interior exudes a rustic charm reminiscent of a National Park lodge. Narrow, double-hung six over two windows perforate the heavy stone walls, providing a view of the wooded lot. For the most part, they are incredibly well preserved for their age, have not been painted shut and operate as double-hung windows should. The walls of the main living area are lined with tall wainscoting painted an antique white, topped by deep plate rails with supporting brackets. There is a built-in reading bench with an overhead light beside one of the bookcases. Inside the bookcase, you will catch a glimpse of a darker stained wood which is believed to be the original finish on the wainscoting. A large china cabinet along the back wall of the dining room gives symmetry to the space while high coffered ceilings further call attention to the incredible detail of the woodwork inside the home.

The most appealing feature of the living room is the large stone fireplace. It was constructed with two symmetrical arches wired for electric lights. Remarkably, the lights retain what are likely their original shades. The shade material is a mineral called mica which is mined from the earth and radiates a warm glow unlike any other material. Mica light shades were very popular in the early 20th century and were used in many arts and crafts style homes. These

shades have a stylized design which is reminiscent of a family crest.

The three bathrooms in the main house feature unusually deep bathtubs. They appear to be claw foot tubs surrounded by a tile enclosure. Original high back toilets and cast iron sinks add to the authenticity of the bathrooms. The kitchen has its original cabinetry and a massive farmhouse sink which is equipped with an early electric clothes agitator or wringer.

The property at 1101 Keystone is the remaining portion of the once much larger Pratt Ranch which was reported to have been upwards of 640 acres. Pratt Ranch appears on the Truckee River Adjudication Survey of 1913 as being comprised of portions of sections 3, 4 and 9 in Township 19 North, Range 19 East. This covers an expanse of land that lies between Keystone Avenue and West McCarran Blvd, stretching as far south as West 7th Street in some areas, and as far north as Coleman Drive on the northeastern side.

Henry J. Pratt came to Nevada in 1869 from Taunton, Massachusetts, working his way west with the railroad. His 1932 obituary indicates he was associated with Alvaro and Newt Evans in the largest cattle ranch in Humboldt County. He was the superintendent of the Jordan Cattle Company and is said to have hosted many travelers at a large sandstone bunkhouse on the Bull Head Ranch. Henry also reported having several mining claims throughout Nevada.

Henry J. and Minerva (Minnie) Pratt brought their children Mabel, Frank and Morton to Reno from Humboldt County in the 1890s to attend school. Once settled in Reno, the Pratts bought the Reno Feed Company and built a home at 817 North Virginia Street. A 1912 newspaper advertisement reads: "Reno Feed Co., Henry J. Pratt and Sons, proprietors. Dealers in hay, straw, grain, flour, feed, oyster shells, hoof ointment, axle grease, separator oil,

roof paper, chicken fencing, lice killer, charcoal, milk cans, milk bottles, bottle stoppers, seed, sugar, hams, bacons, breakfast foods, etc." The Pratt Ranch was historically irrigated for hay and grain, so they may have been growing what they sold.

There are a few details which are not completely clear in establishing the timeline of purchase for the ranch. The water rights claim for Pratt Ranch dates to 1875. The Pratts were in Humboldt County in the 1870s but that may not have precluded them from purchasing land in Reno at the same time. The



Two built-in bookcases (top photo) with leaded glass doors divide the living room from the dining room. The most appealing feature of the living room is the large stone fireplace (below).

portion of the ranch located in section 4 was deeded to Henry J. Pratt by Benjamin Curler in 1913, and the portion of the ranch located in section 9 was deeded to Henry J. Pratt by Bessie Crouch in 1914. However, the deed for the portion of the ranch in section 3, the section that the house lies in, has not been located which could mean it was acquired as a land patent from the U.S. Government.

The construction of the home at 1101 Keystone Avenue was overseen and

orchestrated by Frank Pratt around 1914. He may have laid many of the stones himself, but he certainly did not build it single handedly. This was not Frank's first experiment with stone building techniques. In 1912, Frank had constructed another stone house on the far northeastern tip of the Pratt Ranch at the Highland Ditch, now the current location of 1375 Coleman Drive. It was constructed with colorful stones with a chalky texture, very different from the materials used at 1101 Keystone.

Keystone Avenue north of the Truckee River was formerly known as Peavine Road. 1101 Keystone was formerly 1001 Peavine Road and 1375 Coleman Drive was 1900 Peavine Road. However, before it was Peavine Road, it was known as Stone Quarry Road. It was the access road to a stone quarry that was north of the University campus. Stone Quarry Road partially followed the road made by Jim Beckwith between Sacramento and Glendale. A 1916 article in the *Reno Evening Gazette* states "The road can

still be traced as it is occasionally followed by a few. It crosses near the asylum and joins the Peavine Road just below the stone quarry a mile and a half north of Reno." 1375 Coleman Drive is likely constructed from stones obtained from the quarry while 1101 Keystone was constructed from carefully curated materials gathered from the area.

Frank Pratt's first stone home now serves as the Coleman Drive Community of Christ Church. The church

suffered a devastating fire in 2016 and when it was rebuilt, the former pastor Gary Johnson said the cost to replace all of the original stones was too much, so they opted for stucco instead. If you visit the church to have a look, you'll need to use your imagination to envision it as it once was.

Around the time construction began on 1101 Keystone, Frank's sister Mabel married Carl Stoddard. Carl studied

continued on page 12

1101 Keystone

continued from page 11

mining and geology at UNR. He was a mining engineer, the deputy U.S. Mineral Surveyor and owned assay offices in Reno, Goldfield and Tonopah. The mining connections that Frank Pratt's brother-in-law had may have led to the choice and possibly the source of the building materials for the home. Carl had charge of the water rights survey along the Truckee River and was in charge of securing data in regard to priority rights of the farmers and others securing water from the river. Later in his life, Carl Stoddard would become Washoe County Surveyor.

Carl and Mabel Stoddard moved into the home on Coleman Drive, known at the time as 1900 Peavine Road, where they had a famous bathtub. Frank had a penchant for unusual bathtubs and this first house he built had a deep sunken stone bathtub. News of the unusual tub spread across the country and at one time a group of divorcees appeared on the porch asking to have a look at the tub that they had heard about "back home."

A 1919 article in the *Nevada State Journal* tells an amusing story. The headline reads: "Worst Car in Reno Stolen From Street." The article reads, "The most disreputable flivver in Reno, as Frank Pratt the owner describes it, was stolen yesterday on Commercial Row while the owner was shopping in a store. He reported the matter to the police and said that the machine was so dilapidated, he didn't think that anyone would want it. He was only in the store twenty minutes and when he came out, it was gone. The machine was used as a delivery car." The home on the Pratt Ranch must have been one of the most impressive homes of its time in Reno. It is amusing to think about Mr. Pratt pulling up to his masterpiece in the most disreputable flivver in Reno.

In the early 1920s Frank Pratt moved to Plumas County, California where he constructed his third stone-and-timber home on the Jennings ranch which was owned by his son-in-law's family. Frank had been married twice, had one daughter, Betty Jennings, but lived in his "dream home" alone. His third house had as its distinguishing



The chimney on the south side of 1101 Keystone. Note the variety of stone colors.

feature a bathtub made from a copper brewers kettle from the nearby town of Taylorsville. This home was truly a cabin in the woods, but filled with unusual features such as four fireplaces and an aquarium in the kitchen built entirely of native stone. A disreputable flivver would have looked right at home parked in front. This home still stands today on Beckwourth Genesee Road, 12 miles east of Taylorsville in Plumas County, California.

The Pratts sold the ranch and their home on North Virginia Street in 1932 after Henry Pratt's death. The ranch was divided up with some of the land staying in the Pratt and Stoddard families. The one-acre portion of the ranch including the house was purchased by Dr. Claude Piersall and his wife Zella. Dr. Piersall was the director of the Reno Radium X-Ray Association. He was a Fellow of both the American College of Radiology and the Royal Society of Arts, London. He dedicated much of his life to the pursuit of advancing X-Ray technology. Zella Piersall was a member of the Latimer Art Club. Both Claude and Zella were prolific painters whose work was exhibited in many galleries. Zella's work was recently exhibited in a show of the Latimer Art Club at the Nevada Museum of art in March 2022.

It is evident that at some point in the past, the main and upper level of the house was divided into three units. An examination of some of the details indicates that this may have occurred in the 1930s. In 1931, Nevada dropped

its residency requirement for divorces from 6 months to 6 weeks, making it the quickest place in the country to obtain a divorce. People flocked to Nevada for "quickie" divorces and the divorce filings doubled between 1931 and 1932. During the 1930s, many Renoites created rooming opportunities for divorcees. While no evidence has been found that the Piersalls rented to divorcees, the timing does make it a distinct possibility. Zella and Claude divorced in 1948 and Claude kept the Keystone Avenue property. Claude married Camelia Thornton in 1949. Camelia is believed to have made the famous front door handle. The duplex was constructed on the property in 1943. The property left the Piersall family in 1972 after Claude's death.

The next owner descended from a Grass Valley family with a mining background. For the past 49 years, the property has been known as the Hale House. It was purchased in 1973 by artist, advocate and preservationist Katharine Hale and her husband Edward, well-known local attorney. Katharine was one of the founders of the nonprofits "Save the Mapes" and "Truckee Meadows Heritage Trust." Katharine loved the property with its vast and wild grounds that were home to quail and other birds, sometimes deer, and many varieties of trees, flowers and plants. As a lover of nature and art, Katharine Hale was a natural fit for this unique property. She was the onsite landlady for nearly five decades and proudly kept a list of "artists who have lived here."

Having had only three owners over 108 years, this one-of-a-kind property is now seeking its next owner. 1101 Keystone is an excellent candidate for the City Historic Register and may meet the criterion for a National Register nomination. 

Information for this article came from local newspaper articles 1885-present, Ancestry.com, Recorder's Office deeds and conversations with Hale family members. Photos by TourDForce Photography.

Barrie Lynn is a long-time HRPS member, a HRPS Tour Guide, active in historic preservation, and a local realtor.

Researching My Great-Aunt, Hazel Bell Wines

by Brett Banks

As the president of Hillside Cemetery Preservation Foundation, researching and knowing the stories of each person buried within the cemetery is one of the most important parts of the restoration process. I am fortunate enough to not only connect the stories of Reno's pioneers to those buried there, but also with my own family. My great aunt Hazel Bell Wines is one of those family members. I often visit and decorate the plot she shares with my great uncle Stanley Wines. Her life story is one of much admiration in our family and the State of Nevada.

Hazel Caroline Bell Wines was born September 27, 1885 in Paradise Valley, Nevada, to Freely Clementine Choate and husband William John Bell. Born in Iowa, William had come to the area in 1871 and married Freely, a Tennessee native just two years before Hazel's birth. He had significant mining and political interests in the state. William found riches first in his ownership of the Wild Goose Mine and later his discovery of the Buckskin mining district (a still-existent ghost town). He was later a Democratic Humboldt County Senator from 1906-1914, having a close but short friendship with Pat McCarran.

Hazel was the oldest child and only girl in her family, and followed closely in her father's footsteps. After graduating from high school in Humboldt County, Hazel completed college in California and returned to Nevada where she got her teaching license. One of her first jobs was in Ruby Valley, Nevada, where she met my great-uncle, Stanley Wines. Stanley was the postmaster of Deeth, Nevada at the time and the son of a Pony Express rider and famed local rancher. The couple married on June 22, 1907 in Winnemucca at Mr. Bell's home. They went on to have five children.

The family split time between the Buckskin Mine and with

Bell Wines Apartments For Sale at \$130,000



Bell Wines Apartments Viewed From First South Street

A newspaper advertisement in October 17, 1943 for the sale of the Bell Wines Apartments.



A wedding day picture with from left, Stanley Wines, Genevieve (their daughter) Wines Segerblom, Hazel Bell Wines, Gene's new husband Cliff Segerblom (photographer featured in Life, Time, National Geographic, Arizona Highways and Nevada Magazine), and Cliff's mother Lydia.

Stanley's family in Utah and Elko County. Hazel and Stanley had many different financial interests, including the Bell-Wines Apartments in Salt Lake City, a gorgeous brick building built by Stanley and family (that still stands today). After losing the apartment home during the depression, the family relocated to Reno and resided at 849 N. Virginia Street where Stanley became a contractor and the Grand Chancellor of the local Knights of Pythias Lodge.

In addition to raising five children, Hazel maintained interests in painting, fishing, and politics. She was the organizer of The Native Daughters, a group dedicated to preserving Nevada's historical newspapers and properties.

In the 1930s, she ran for postmaster of Winnemucca with her father's support (and the family even relocated there temporarily) but Senator McCarran appointed someone else, a decision that severed his relationship with William Bell. This did not discourage Hazel and by 1934 she was a Humboldt County Assemblywoman. She served one term and introduced six bills, one of which provided \$15,000 to establish the Nevada State Museum's historical library. Hazel and Stanley's daughter, Gene, went on to also become a state assemblywoman.

Hazel passed away at her daughter's home in San Francisco in April of 1949. Stanley never remarried and passed in 1962. Hazel and Stanley are buried alongside one another in the Knights of Pythias Cemetery in the Hillside complex, where I can tend to their graves and honor the memory of family I never knew. 

Brett Banks is a HRPS Board member, HRPS Tour Guide, manages the HRPS Instagram account and is President of the Hillside Cemetery Preservation Foundation.



Message From Your HRPS President

Carol Coleman

Journal ceased to be a local newspaper back about 2015. We've added a lot to our website. Board member Brett Banks is up to speed and posts frequent items of Reno history on our Instagram account @historicrenonevada. We are still working on our presence on Facebook and Twitter.

Virtual technology like Zoom was new to us back in April 2020. But it was a way to bring you Neighborhood Stories and Speaker Programs, and to hold HRPS Board meetings. The one good thing from COVID may be that we now have a treasure of recorded Stories and Programs on our website. The surprise has been that we have had a multitude of views on these recordings continually!

Have you missed HRPS Harvest of Homes Tour? That was a casualty of the COVID pandemic. We're planning on bringing that back this Fall with a date of Saturday, September 24! Let's keep COVID at bay, and hope that we have willing home owners open to showing their homes.

We're Back to In-Person Tours!

We are scheduling June and July Walking Tours, with the expectation that COVID numbers will stay low this summer! We'll be offering eight tours in June and nine in July, on Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. and Saturdays at 9:00 a.m.

There will be some tours you haven't seen in a while: The Other Side of the Street, Midtown Business District, West of Wells and East Fourth Street will be featured for the first time in about four years. There is a new tour, Circle Drive / Southridge, that we've done as a virtual tour, but this will be a first as an in-person tour. For those of you who have signed up for Walking Tours in the past, you will notice a difference — new technology on our website will allow you to sign up for free if you are a member and to pay your \$10/pp if you are a non-member.

It's rebuilding time for Walking Tours; several of our Tour Guides have retired, so we're looking for new history buffs to come forward to support this program.

We'll be holding a Tour Guide workshop this summer to prepare new Tour Guides for the 2023 summer season.

Plans for Speaker Programs

Keeping our fingers crossed on the COVID-front, we are scheduling with the Washoe County Library for HRPS in-person Speaker Programs to be held in the Reno Downtown Library on 2nd Sundays at 12:00 noon from September to November 2022 and January to April 2023.

A Big Thank You

At the end of December HRPS received a letter from Vanguard Charitable informing us we were again recipients of a \$10,000 grant to be used for our "area of most need." Some wonderful HRPS members, not to be named here, were responsible for this gift and we sincerely thank them.

I operate under the policy that if you don't ask, you likely won't receive. So dutifully I applied for the 2021 Nevada Humanities CARES Relief grant and the 2022 Nevada Humanities CARES Recovery grant, and am pleased to say HRPS received both. The Relief grant covers annual insurance plus rent for four months, a total of \$3,470. The Recovery grant covers software licenses (Wild Apricot, Zoom and Reno Historical) and three issues of *FootPrints* for a total of \$9,572. We very much appreciate this support in a time when we have not been able to do any fundraising because of the COVID pandemic.

And Finally ...

Thanks to the Board members, members, volunteers and supporters that I've had the privilege to work with over the last six years. You are a great team that has held this organization together for the last twenty-five years! Yes, twenty-five years this year. And hoping for many more.

Thanks to you all.

Carol Coleman, HRPS President
CarolC@galenaforest.net

As I begin to write this message for the Spring 2022 *FootPrints*, I reflect on the fact it's my last message to you as President of HRPS. I volunteered for this job in May of 2016, when nobody else would step up. That was six years ago — I've done two terms of three years each. HRPS Bylaws say a Board member can serve two terms of three years and then must take a break of at least a year. I can stay for a year as a non-voting member to assist a new President. That new President has not appeared yet. Someone needs to raise their hand and say "I'll do it!"

There have had significant changes for non-profits like HRPS in the last six-plus years.

The COVID pandemic is the most significant event, of course. It shut down our in-person events as well as how we did fundraising! Fortunately our members supported us well — for instance, as 2016 began we had 39 Lifetime memberships and today we have 67 Lifetime memberships, representing 91 people! Grants and donations helped us continue with virtual programs, *FootPrints*, our new email newsletter, and to give grants to local historic properties. We were able to move to new technology like our Membership Management System Wild Apricot, support of Reno Historical, and the lifesaving virtual technology Zoom. Without this funding and technology, we might have shut down.

Social media and the changes it brought required a major adjustment for HRPS and we are still catching up. We had depended on local newspapers to announce our walking tours, speaker programs and our Home Tour. That disappeared when the Reno Gazette-

HRPS Lifetime Members

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HRPS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

By joining **Historic Reno Preservation Society**, you are a member of a community group that celebrates Reno's history by sharing information and advocating for our endangered properties.

HRPS offers Walking Tours during the summer, Speaker Programs during the winter, and a Home Tour in fall as a fund-raiser to support our Reno Heritage Fund grants. As a member, you receive our monthly email newsletter and our quarterly publication, FootPrints, to keep you informed about HRPS events, places of historical interest as well as items of concern. HRPS information is on our website, Facebook and Instagram.

☐ New Member ☐ Renewing

Membership Levels:

- ☐ \$15.00 Student
☐ \$25.00 Individual
☐ \$45.00 Family
☐ \$100.00 Supporting
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My Additional Donation:

\$ _____ Pat Klos Annual
 Volunteer Award Fund
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 \$ _____ Overall Program Support

HRPS Quarterly FootPrints Preference (Please check one):

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HRPS respects your right to privacy. We will **NOT** share your email address.

PD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER TO WORK ON:

- ☐ Home Tours ☐ Walking Tours ☐ Board ☐ Research
☐ Other _____

Ways to become a member or renew your membership in HRPS:

- 1) Join or renew on HRPS website historicreno.org using credit or debit card
- 2) Fill out the above form and mail with a check to address below
- 3) Fill out the above form and credit/debit info below and mail to address below

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